Nationalisation of Indian rivers

754. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalize our country's rivers; and

(b) if not, what steps Government propose to take to solve the water-based conflicts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) At present there is no proposal before the Government to nationalize the rivers.

(b) The Central Government endeavours to resolve the dispute by negotiations failing which the dispute is referred to a Tribunal at the request of party States as per the provision of Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication. The said Act has been amended on March 28, 2002 to provide for time-bound adjudication of disputes by the Tribunal. Also as per the amended Act, the decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the Official Gazette, shall have the same force as an order or decree of the Supreme Court.

Management of Water Resources

755. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been undertaken to assess the availability of utilisable water and its demand in the country in the wake of recent drought in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with the present rate of growth in population the demand for utilisable water for domestic industrial and agricultural purposes would out-strip its supply, reaching critical famine conditions by 2025 A.D.; and

(d) if so, the details of the long term plans drawn up to ensure better management of water resources and other research based practical and affordable solutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the latest assessment made the utilisable surface water is assessed as 690 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM), the annual replenishable ground water resource is about 432 BCM, totaling to 1122 BCM. This utilizable flow is out of total availability of water of 1869 BCM. On an average the total water resources availability in the country remains the same although the spatial and temporal variability of rain in the country creates temporary scarcity of water in certain years. The drought conditions in certain parts of the country during the current year is a result of less rainfall this year.

(c) Owing to increase in population, urbanization and better living standards the demand of water for diverse uses has been estimated for the year 2025 AD as 1093 BCM out of which 73 BCM is for domestic. 23 BCM is for industrial, 910 BCM is for irrigation (Agriculture), 15 BCM is for energy and 72 BCM is for other uses. The projected demand of water for the year 2025 will be possible to meet by exploiting almost all the 1122 BCM of utilizable water by conventional means.

(d) Through concerted efforts of State Governments, an irrigation potential of approximately 95.40 million hectares has been created by the end of 9th Five Year Plan. This has been possible due to construction of 3596 major and medium projects providing 177 BCM of storage of rain water. Another 207.7 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in the form of central loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistant (CLA) amounting to Rs. 8480 crore to the State Governments have been provided under AIBP upto end of 2001-02. An outlay of Rs. 2800 crore has been provided for the year 2002-03. An amount of Rs. 594.75 crore has been released during current year upto 31.10.2002.

Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sectoral reform project of

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis under which 174 schemes have been approved in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. An expenditure of Rs. 764.42 crore has been incurred during Ninth Five Year Plan under CAD programme and an outlay of Rs. 202 crore has been earmarked for the year 2002-03.

For meeting future requirements of water as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will accrue benefits of drinking water supply, irrigation, hydro-power, flood control, navigation, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.

Clearance to Mahadayi Diversion Project

756. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given clearance for the Mahadayi Diversion Project proposed by the Karnataka Government;

(b) if so, when the clearance was granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Goa Government has filed an appeal raising objections; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken steps to resolve the matter by mutual discussions between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources granted an "In-Principle" clearance from water availability angle on 30th April, 2002 to the Government of Karnataka at